



H↑GROWTH

INITIATIVE

HI GROWTH

The HI Growth Initiative is a new State investment program focused on **building an innovation ecosystem** that supports entrepreneurial high growth businesses and creates high wage jobs for our people. HI Growth provides \$20 million of investment capital that will focus on the critical building blocks of an innovation ecosystem: **entrepreneur** mentoring, research **commercialization**, and the mobilization of startup **investment capital**.

This **comprehensive investment program** represents a bold new approach to reinvigorate state efforts to fuel an innovation economy. The HI Growth Initiative will engage with the private sector to startup and grow creative and innovative companies. This initiative will help to keep our established industries competitive, create new areas of opportunities to excite our entrepreneurs and provide them the ecosystem to pursue their dreams here in Hawaii.

The knowledge and creative industries can be **new sources of economic growth**, their workforce already accounts for nearly 8% of the total jobs in the State. These industries are growing rapidly, have high value output, compete globally using digital technologies and leverage Hawaii's ability to be the meeting place for the world. They do not require large land and water resources to achieve global scale. Knowledge intensive industries favor regions with a high quality of life, a distinct competitive advantage for Hawaii.

If Hawaii is to remain competitive in the global economy we need to provide our entrepreneurs with the resources to **build viable global businesses here at home**. We have the entrepreneurial talent here in Hawaii. The HI Growth Initiative will invest in the mentor and investment networks which will allow them to survive and thrive here in Hawaii.

Investment Strategy

ENTREPRENEUR

Support mentoring, collaboration, and funding opportunities for Hawaii entrepreneurs to establish their business ventures

COMMERCIALIZATION

Actively partner research commercialization activities with university and private-industry programs to create high-growth businesses

INVESTMENT CAPITAL

Network Hawaii's high-growth businesses into the broader universe of mainland and international investors active in the sectors important to Hawaii

Current Initiatives

ENTREPRENEUR

Connect and Network (CAN)

Sponsorship for events that connect and network entrepreneurs with investors

Blue Startups

Hawaii's first venture accelerator

Innovation Report

Inventory of Hawaii's innovation assets

New Accelerators

- Designer in Residence
- Transmedia Accelerator

COMMERCIALIZATION

Proof of Concept Center

Mentoring and investment program to validate commercial potential of research

INVESTMENT CAPITAL

UPSIDE

Seed stage investment fund for UH technology

mbloom

Seed stage venture fund

Startup Capital Ventures

Series A venture fund

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